

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action
NEA

Control: 1676

Rec'd: February 4, 1957
11:30 a.m.

FROM: Damascus

Info
RMR

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1812, February 4, 3 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 1812, REPEATED INFORMATION AMMAN 186, BAGHDAD
214, BEIRUT 520, CAIRO 223, JIDDA 107.

FROM STRONG

JOINT STATE USIA MESSAGE

Syrian press and radio coverage King Saud visit US relatively straight and favorable although (1) Two Damascus Communist line dailies hardly mentioning event while (2) RAI AL AM (G-2, ASRP) February 1 declares USG pessimistic over Saud discussions and pro-Soviet AL JUMHUR warns against offers US arms Saudi Arabia since US may then give double amount to Israel. Most press frontpageing detailed MEF and other reports. Saud and President Eisenhower statements, dinner, et cetera with headlines stressing magnificent reception from US people. Common editorial line is that Saud represents liberated Arab states and will explain their policies, with several pro-Soviet editors hoping he can convince President amend ME plan to oppose Israeli, as well as Communist aggression.

Only moderate play given New York Mayor Wagner ban official reception, but six papers featured US press criticism Wagner (MEF 59 January 30). Damascus radio ARABIC NEWS satisfactory, but English-French broadcasts violent in claim press and people extremely discourteous Saud as result Zionist influence.

MS:MDG-16

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